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Nixon Aide Blasts Impeachment Call

Those in the Congress and in the country who are calling for President Nixon's impeachment are acting "in a purely political fashion," one of the President's top assistants said here yesterday.

John McLaughlin, a Presidential speechwriter, told a Commonwealth Club audience that "Big Labor," which has mounted a nationwide impeachment campaign, donated $190,000 to the campaigns of the Democratic members of the House Judiciary Committee.

That committee will resume its deliberations into whether a recommendation for impeachment should be sent to the full House when Congress opens its next session on Monday.

McLaughlin, a Jesuit priest who ran unsuccessfully against U.S. Senator John Pastore (Dem-R.I.) in 1970, has worked in the White House for more than two and one-half years.

He said in an interview after his speech that Mr. Nixon is serene and tranquil, ~~mea from his knowing he~~ is with the composure that comes from his knowing he is innocent of what some of the 'Nixon-haters' are saying about him."

If Mr. Nixon were to be impeached, then tried by the Senate, McLaughlin said, "it would paralyze this country for as much as a year."

On the other hand, if he were to resign, "by that act he would condemn this country to the destruction of the tripartite systems of checks and balances—executive, legislative and judicial — built into the Constitution."

McLaughlin said he sees the President "as often as necessary," but refuses to say when he saw him last. ('I'm not going to play that game the press loves to play').

But he was firm in saying Mr. Nixon has absolutely no plans to resign. "His attitude is: 'Damn the torpedoes, full steam ahead.'"